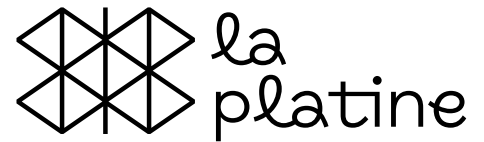


PRESS RELEASE
Saint-Étienne, 29 April 2026



New Cultural Season at La Platine - Cité du design: designs that offer a fresh perspective on the world

From 29 April 2026, La Platine invites visitors to la Cité du design (Saint-Étienne) to discover a new cultural season dedicated to contemporary design. Conceived as a space for discovery, experimentation and dialogue, this programme highlights committed and sensitive approaches at the crossroads of design, art, research and craftsmanship.

Unveiled in Saint-Étienne, the exhibition **Créer un vase** (creating a vase), commissioned by the Centre national des arts plastiques (Cnap), explores the many dimensions of this familiar object through unique creations blending craftsmanship, industry and contemporary technologies. Echoing this, the installation **Topographies du vase** presents work by students from the École supérieure d'art et design de Saint-Étienne, resulting from an educational partnership with the Cnap.

The fifth instalment of the 'Present >< Future' cycle, the exhibition **Brèches fertiles** (fertile breaches) is dedicated to the work of designer Anaïs Borie. Through her objects, which lie at the intersection of narrative, fiction and the hybridisation of skills, she opens up sensitive breaches in reality and proposes new ways of inhabiting and perceiving the world.

Finally, Ésad Saint-Étienne is at the heart of two other exhibitions: **recto verso** (front and back), conceived by the ppdesigner collective, which brings together the projects of the 2024 and 2025 graduates within an immersive exhibition, and **Local Tools - Dialogues avec l'industrie** (dialogues with industry), which highlights experiments conducted by four designers exploring the tools, processes and imaginaries of contemporary production.

créer un vase

A commission from the Centre national des arts plastiques

A familiar and almost self-evident object, the vase has been part of our daily lives for centuries. Behind its simple form, however, lies a vast field of experimentation. It is at la Cité du design that the Centre national des arts plastiques (Cnap) is presenting **Créer un vase** for the first time. Twenty-one works, accompanied by drawings, models and working documents, reveal research, trials and doubts. Here, the vase is explored as a functional object, a sculpture, a symbol, or a vehicle for cultural and technical narratives. The approaches, situated at the crossroads of the decorative arts, fine art, craftsmanship and industry, draw on vernacular skills, local materials (sometimes repurposed), industrial processes and digital technologies, offering a nuanced overview of contemporary creation. The exhibition design by Emilieu Studio extends this reflection through upcycling, transforming transport crates into plinths integrated into the exhibition route.

At La Platine, from 29 April to 20 September 2026
Exhibition design: Emilieu Studio
Curated by: Céline Saraiva, Cnap



Topographies du vase

Créer un vase en territoire stéphanois

In addition, La Bulle is exhibiting work by students produced as part of an educational partnership between the Centre national des arts plastiques and Ésad Saint-Étienne, focusing on the design of a vase that engages with the Saint-Étienne area.

At La Bulle
from 29 April to 4 October 2026



brèches fertiles

Anaïs Borie

As part of the *Present >> Future* series, this fifth solo exhibition showcases the work of designer Anaïs Borie. **Brèches fertiles** immerses visitors in a world where design draws on storytelling, fiction and the blending of craft skills to open up sensitive 'breaches' in reality. Combining artisanal techniques with precision technologies, the objects made of glass, wood and metal bear witness to a close dialogue between formal experimentation and industrial processes, notably through a partnership with Tôlerie Forézienne. Conceived as an archipelago with no set route, the exhibition layout invites visitors to wander freely amongst the works and the imaginations they evoke.

To complement the exhibition, la Cité du design is publishing an illustrated book dedicated to Anaïs Borie (Presence >> Future collection).

At La Platine, from 29 April to 4 October 2026
Exhibition design and curation: Anaïs Borie



recto verso

Exhibition by the 2024 & 2025 graduates of Ésad Saint-Étienne

recto verso presents the projects of the 2024 and 2025 graduates of the École supérieure d'art et design de Saint-Étienne through an immersive exhibition designed by the ppdesigner collective. The exhibition fosters a dialogue between two cohorts of young creators, exploring emerging practices where research, commitment and sensitive experimentation converge. The exhibition unfolds in two complementary parts: a main exhibition comprising dioramas, and a second section situated on the reverse side of the structures. On the front, the works—objects, installations, videos or performances—are presented in scenes that highlight the richness of the individual worlds. On the reverse, the viewer discovers what lies behind the scenes: archives, drawings and stages of creation show that each project is a process, a constant journey where intuition and exploration come together.

At La Platine, from 29 April to 4 October 2026
Exhibition design: Collectif ppdesigner
Curated by: Collectif ppdesigner and Éric Jourdan

local tools

Dialogues avec l'industrie

Local Tools - Dialogues avec l'industrie invites you to discover how design can transform contemporary production. Through the post-master's programme at Ésad Saint-Étienne, four young designers – Hugo Le Guen, Ismaël Rifai, Camille Sardet and Nathan Cussol – have immersed themselves in two partner companies, Rondino and Sculpteo, exploring complementary industrial processes: woodworking and 3D printing. The exhibition is not limited to finished objects: models, prototypes, videos and photographs reveal the experiments, trials and adjustments that punctuate the creative process. It fosters an open dialogue between designers and manufacturers, questioning the tools, methods and imaginaries of production, and asserts that reindustrialisation and innovation cannot exist without design that is engaged, critical and capable of rethinking practices.

At La Platine, from 29 April to 16 August 2026
Exhibition design: Hugo Le Guen
Curated by: Jean-François Dingjian



The shop

Designed as a space for discovery and promotion, the shop extends the visitor experience of La Platine's exhibitions. Design objects, ethically produced creations and souvenirs sit alongside a specialist bookshop offering publications from la Cité du design and a wide selection of books to explore the themes covered in the exhibitions in greater depth. The shop also showcases emerging local talent, particularly from Ésad Saint-Étienne, affirming its role as a showcase for contemporary practices and expertise.

Towards France's first design district

Rooted in Saint-Étienne's industrial history whilst being resolutely focused on contemporary creation, the Cité du design embodies a profound transformation of the site of the former Manufacture d'Armes and stands as a major urban project, set to become France's first design district, spearheaded by Saint-Étienne Métropole. This emerging district is conceived as an open, sustainable and inclusive space, where cultural practices, innovation, knowledge transfer and economic dynamics intersect. The existing cultural ecosystem is set to be enriched by the forthcoming opening of the National Design Gallery, reinforcing the site's role as a leading centre for design within the only French city that is a member of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network in the field of design.



The Galerie nationale du design

A first-of-its-kind venue in France dedicated to public design collections, the Galerie nationale du design (National Gallery of Design) will open its doors on 10 June 2026 at la Cité du Design in Saint-Étienne. It offers an innovative model based on the circulation of works and annual exhibitions curated by guest curators. The inaugural exhibition, *Design en main. Du langage à l'objet* (Design in hand. From Language to Object), curated by Laurence Mauderli, will mark the start of this new chapter by offering a fresh perspective on design and its history.

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